APPENDIX A: STATEMENTS OF INTEREST OF THE *AMICI CURIAE*

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

The American Jewish Committee (AJC), a national organization of approximately 150,000 members and supporters, was founded in 1906 to protect the civil and religious rights of Jews. AJC believes that this goal can best be achieved by preserving the constitutional rights of all Americans, including the fundamental right of access to abortion. For this reason, AJC firmly believes that when faced with reproductive health decisions – often in the context of wanted pregnancies gone tragically wrong – women and their families, in consultation with their doctors and in accordance with their religious beliefs, must be able to choose the medical procedure that is safest for the woman and best protects her ability to bear future children.

AMERICANS FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Americans for Religious Liberty (ARL) is a nonprofit interfaith educational organization, founded in 1982, to defend church-state separation, freedom of conscience, and reproductive choice. ARL has been before this Court numerous times as an *amicus*, including in cases defending reproductive choice.

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), founded in 1913, is a national Jewish human relations organization dedicated to

principles of religious and individual liberty, including the right to privacy. ADL views reproductive choice as an issue of personal and religious freedom. Accordingly, ADL believes that a woman's right to make her own decision concerning abortion is constitutionally protected and should be made in accordance with her own religious and moral convictions, without governmental intrusion. ADL has participated as *amicus curiae* in numerous cases before the Supreme Court and other courts when these issues have been implicated, including *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England* (2006); *Stenberg v. Carhart* (2000); *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992); and *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* (1989).

DISCIPLES FOR CHOICE

Disciples for Choice is an organization of members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who support reproductive choice. The organization endeavors to maintain the freedom of every woman to decide when to bear children according to her own conscience and religious belief, without governmental interference. Disciples for Choice holds high the dignity of women as responsible decision makers. It also recognizes the diverse approaches to the issue of reproductive choice among faith groups and religious denominations. The spectrum of views as to when abortion may be morally justified supports the conviction that the individual must make the abortion decision utilizing the guidance of personal faith and counsel.

DISCIPLES JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK

Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN), founded in 1996 in Chicago, Illinois, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. DJAN counts some 2,000 supporters and its fast-growing constituency is made up of churches, other justice issue groups and individuals. DJAN strongly supports women's reproductive rights. The Gospel envisions a society in which all are free from oppression, despair, poverty, violence and marginalization. Women's lives and health must be given paramount consideration in abortion-related decisions. Banning abortion procedures with no exception for the health of the woman would conflict with DJAN's religious principals and values.

EPISCOPAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The Episcopal Church, acting through its legislative body, the General Convention, has on numerous occasions since 1967 affirmed the right of every pregnant woman, preferably in consultation with a member of the clergy, to make her own decision about whether to carry a pregnancy to term and has unequivocally opposed legislative efforts to curtail that right.

The Episcopal Women's Caucus concentrates its efforts on promoting a Church that honors and rejoices in the ministries of all women, which would result in a Church that honors and rejoices in the ministries of all people. One aspect of its work is giving visibility and respect to women's perspectives and actions in the work and struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The

Episcopal Women's Caucus strongly opposes the restriction under review in this case.

HADASSAH, THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, founded in 1912, is the largest women's and Jewish membership organization in the United States, with over 300,000 members nationwide. In addition to Hadassah's mission of maintaining health care institutions in Israel, Hadassah has a proud history of protecting the rights of women and the Jewish community. Hadassah is one of the nation's preeminent advocates of women's health issues. Hadassah has a longstanding commitment to staunchly supporting and working to protect a woman's right to choose abortion and other reproductive health care services. Hadassah regards reproductive freedom as a right protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of religion – the freedom to consult one's own religious beliefs in making a personal choice, free from government interference

JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST FEDERATION

Founded in 1955, the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) is the rapidly growing synagogue arm of the Reconstructionist movement, serving 107 congregations and havurot spread across North America. A voice of Reconstructionist Judaism in the greater Jewish world, JRF provides a wide array of services to its affiliates. People experience Reconstructionist congregations as open, inclusive, and egalitarian, both in principle and in practice.

APPENDIX A (continued)

JRF-affiliated communities are autonomous, progressive, and democratic.

Updated from the JRF 1981 statement in support of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, an organization that JRF is officially affiliated with:

Although the Jewish tradition regards children as a blessing, a gift of life itself, the tradition permits the abortion of an unborn child in order to safeguard the life and physical and mental health of the mother. The rabbis did not take a consistent stand on the question of whether a fetus resembles a "person". They did not think it possible to arrive at a final theoretical answer to the question of abortion, for that would mean nothing less than to be able to define convincingly what it means to be human.

We recognize that abortion is a painful choice. Any prospective parent must make an agonizing decision between competing claims- the fetus, health, the need to support oneself and one's family, the need for time for a marriage to stabilize, responsibility for other children and the like.

Reconstructionist Judaism recognizes that we live in both religious and civic cultures simultaneously. The law of the United States of America supports a woman's right to obtain an abortion, although limitations and restrictions have been applied. The JRF likewise supports the preservation and protection of the reproductive rights of women, and the individual right of women to make the painful decision to abort or not to abort.

JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The United Church of Christ, through its primary representative policy-setting body, the General Synod, has since 1971 supported resolutions affirming the legalization of abortion; providing access to full reproductive services, including abortion and information about contraception, for all women regardless of income; and reaffirming support for *Roe v. Wade*. These resolutions have been affirmed by the General Synod in 1971, 1973, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1987 and 1989. We have based these resolutions on our support for life and the sacredness of life while at the same time recognizing that complex circumstances can be present which can create moral, ethical and religious conflict. Making critical decisions in regards to unintended pregnancies must be primarily the decision of the woman who is pregnant who must wrestle with her religious beliefs, and moral and ethical values.

Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ joined an amicus curiae in the case of *Stenberg v Carhart,* and join this brief for the same reasons. We recognize that the health of a woman who faces life-threatening conditions during the third trimester of pregnancy should the pregnancy be allowed to continue is of paramount importance. The decision about what appropriate medical intervention, if any, should be taken must be made by the woman and her physician. The decision about what procedure to use, should intervention be called for, must be the decision of the physician whose primary responsibility is to safeguard the life and health of the patient. No law should restrict a doctor from

recommending the safest, most medically appropriate procedures.

METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

The Methodist Federation for Social Action has been in existence since 1907. We have 2,800 members in 34 chapters and are an independent, nation-wide network of United Methodists committed to providing a fruitful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, working primarily through the ministries of the United Methodist Church. Our members work on a wide variety of peace and justice issues including religious liberty, promotion of human rights, non-discrimination, and the empowerment of women. We support reproductive choice.

We affirm the goodness of God's creation and the sacredness of all creation. Therefore, we do not take the question of abortion lightly. We long for a world where abortion is unknown. We envision a world where every child is a wanted child; where family planning and birth control are readily available to and practiced by all the peoples of the world; where adequate nutrition, medical, spiritual, emotional and psychological care is available to all; where meaningful employment and the means to support oneself and one's family are universal; and where adequate prenatal, perinatal, maternal, and child care is available to all. We also recognize that in an imperfect world these goals will never be fulfilled equitably for all people.

Because we regard all life as sacred, we regard the life and well being of the mother-to-be as just as valuable as the

potential life of the fetus. We recognize that there are many situations in which more than one of our most deeply held religious and moral values about the sacredness of life will come into conflict with each other. And we recognize that only the individuals most intimately involved in a crisis pregnancy can adequately weigh the factors and values in conflict and come to a decision about the most appropriate course of action. In view of this, we support the right of a woman to choose whether to carry her pregnancy to term, keep her child, give her child up for adoption, or terminate her pregnancy.

The right of reproductive freedom is an issue of religious liberty. Different religious traditions hold widely differing positions on issues related to birth control, pregnancy, abortion, and other issues of reproductive freedom. Because we are guaranteed religious freedom in our Constitution, we believe that reproductive issues must remain free from government interference. We believe that for secular authority to codify any particular religious tradition or position into law is a violation of the religious liberty of all religious traditions whose teachings differ from that law.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

The National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. (NCJW) is a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families, and to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all through its network of 90,000 members, supporters, and volunteers nationwide. NCJW endorses the protection

of every female's right to reproductive choice, including safe and legal abortion, and the elimination of obstacles that limit reproductive freedom. In addition, we believe that religious liberty and the separation of religion and state are constitutional principles that must be protected and preserved in order to maintain our democratic society. Consistent with our priorities and resolutions, NCJW joins this brief.

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

The Rabbinical Assembly is the international association of Conservative rabbis founded in 1901. Rabbis of the Assembly provide religious leadership for the Conservative movement and serve throughout the world. The Assembly shapes the ideology and practices of the Conservative movement, and administers the work of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards for the Conservative movement. In 2001, our Law Committee issued a responsum written by Rabbi Avram I. Reisner, ruling that partial-birth abortion is forbidden according to Jewish Law except in the most dire of circumstances. Between the forces of choice who would grant every woman the freedom to abort at will and those pro-life forces who would define life as beginning at conception and ban abortion completely, halakhah (Jewish Law) has championed a bright line conception whereby life begins at birth, but abortion proceeds only for good and sufficient cause. The task of the CJLS is to rule for Jewish women and Jewish practitioners, not to rule for America.

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

The Union for Reform Judaism (Union), founded in 1873, is the central body of the Reform Movement in North America including 900 congregations encompassing 1.5 million Reform Jews. The Union comes to this issue out of our strong belief in the right of a woman to act in accordance with the moral and religious dictates of her conscience with respect to abortion. While recognizing the right of religious groups whose beliefs differ from ours to follow the dictates of their faith in this matter, we vigorously oppose the attempts to legislate the particular beliefs of those groups into the law that governs us all. Our tradition has always upheld the sacredness of life. Similarly it has upheld the sacredness of the body. Sensitive medical decisions should remain in the hands of women, in consultation with their doctors and on the basis of their own beliefs, without interference from those with political agenda in opposition to established rights. The Reform Jewish Movement opposes laws which would prevent women from choosing to access safe and potentially life-saving medical treatment.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

As affirmed in our 1991 resolution and reaffirmed in 2005, a woman's life and health may mandate the early termination of pregnancy according to Jewish law as determined by the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) and the local rabbinic authority. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism supports legislation maintaining the legality and accessibility of

abortion so that in those cases where our religious authorities determine that an abortion is warranted halakhically, obtaining that abortion will not be hindered by our civil law. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism opposes any legislation in the United States or Canada that will hinder an individual's ability to meet a halachic obligation in regard to abortion.

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, is the collective voice and presence of women in congregational life. Stronger together, we support the ideals and enhance the quality of Jewish living to ensure the future of progressive Judaism in North America, Israel and around the world. Including over 75,000 women in 500 local groups nationwide, WRJ is deeply committed to the social justice teachings of the prophets and the concept of *pikuach nefesh* – the "value of life." Serving humanitarian causes, WRJ has adopted resolutions in support of reproductive rights in 1975, 1977, and 1989, and in 1991 WRJ called for support of legislation to provide universal access to health care, including all aspects of reproductive health care, regardless of age and economic status. WRJ has advocated the right of individual women to make decisions regarding abortion based on their conscience and religious beliefs and has opposed efforts, such as the so-called partial birth abortion ban, to redefine or curtail those rights.

APPENDIX B: List of Amici Curiae

American Jewish Committee

Americans For Religious Liberty

Anti-Defamation League

Disciples For Choice

Disciples Justice Action Network

Episcopal Women's Caucus

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization Of America

Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Justice And Witness Ministries Of The United Church Of Christ

Methodist Federation For Social Action

National Council Of Jewish Women

The Rabbinical Assembly

Union For Reform Judaism

United Synagogue Of Conservative Judaism

Women Of Reform Judaism

Appendix B (continued)

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Appendix B (continued)

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Rev. William McKinney
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Appendix B (continued)

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* For identification purposes only.